

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 553 - SB 822**

February 21, 2019

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires eligible individuals applying for or renewing a driver license or photo identification to be automatically registered to vote, unless the person declines registration by checking a box indicating their refusal.

Requires as part of any application, for the issuance or renewal of a driver license, permit, or photo identification license to a person that is at least 15 years of age but not more than 18 years of age, the information required to register a voter, unless the person declines registration by checking a box indicating their refusal. Requires the administrator of elections for the county election commission to register the applicant to vote upon turning 18 years of age.

Specifies that the Department of Safety (DOS) is not required to comply with this act until updates to electronic and hardcopy systems are made and existing applications, forms, and documents are exhausted. For purposes of carrying out administrative duties to implement this legislation, the effective date is upon becoming law; for all other purposes, the effective date is July 1, 2019.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase State Expenditures – \$550,000/One-Time**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-201, the Department of Safety (DOS) includes a voter registration application as part of any motor vehicle driver or photo identification license application, and such applications offer individuals the option to decline to register to vote.
- According to information provided by DOS, and confirmed by the third-party contract vendor responsible for the driver license system, the cost to perform a system modification to integrate voter registration of driver license duplicates and renewals and changes of addresses at kiosks and electronic tablets is estimated to result in a one-time state expenditure of \$275,000.
- Under current law, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 2-2-201, the DOS is required to provide voter registration applications to county election commissions. Under the provisions of this legislation, DOS is authorized to continue providing these

electronically; as a result, there will not be a significant increase in state expenditures for providing such notifications to county election commissions.

- Currently, there is no additional room to add the required statement to decline registration to the printed driver license application form. However, as DOS is not required to comply with this act until existing applications, forms, and documents are exhausted, new applications can be printed within the normal order cycle at no additional cost to the state.
- Based on information provided by the Division of Elections, updates to the voter registration database will be required in order to implement automatic voter registration. Such updates are estimated to result in a one-time increase in state expenditures of \$275,000.
- The total one-time increase in state expenditures under this legislation is estimated to be \$550,000 (\$275,000 in the driver license system modifications + \$275,000 in voter registration database updates). Such one-time expense is assumed to occur during FY19-20.

#### **CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/jmg